

Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland

June 1, 2009 / 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Maryland Department of Planning

Baltimore, Maryland

Meeting Summary

Members: Jon Laria, David Beall, Derick Berlage, Karl Brendle, David Carey, Sandy Coyman, John Dillman, Teena Green, Don Halligan, Frank Hertsch, Brigid Kenney, Gerrit Knaap, Matt Power, Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Kurt Sommer

Attendees: Marty Baker, Peter Boussein, Jamie Bridges, Jack Brock, Candace Donoho, Alan Girard, Dave Goshorn, Ed Gunts, Shawn Kiernan, Les Knapp, David Lever, Katie Maloney, Amanda Mock, John Papagni, Kurt Sommer, Barbara Zektick

MDP Staff: John Coleman, Amanda Conn, Peter Conrad, Nicole Diehlmann, Jenny King, John Leocha, Stephanie Martins, Sharon Reichlyn, Shelley Wasserman

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Jon Laria, opened the meeting, briefly summarized the agenda items and thanked the membership for their continued hard work and diligence. He welcomed Mr. John Dillman, Executive Director of the Upper Short Regional Council as a member of the Task Force. Mr. Dillman will be taking over Vanessa Orlando's position on the Task Force. Mr. Laria briefly informed the membership about Mr. Dillman's professional background.

2009 Work Plan

Mr. Laria went over the Task Force's overall 2009 Work Plan. He explained that five workgroups had been formed: PFA/Schools, Conflicts/Inefficiencies, Land Preservation/TDR, Smart Growth Indicators and Education. He noted that PFA/Schools were separate previously but has since been merged due to the overlapping nature of their work. It was also noted that each of the State agencies (MDE, DHCD, MDOT and MDP) all have responsibilities per the 2009 Work Plan.

Indicators Workgroup Update

Mr. Laria stated that his group was originally formed without a deadline. However, legislation passed during the 2009 General Assembly (Indicators Bill) has given this group a deadline of July 1st to make recommendations for specific indicators on an array of subjects by July 1, 2009.

Mr. Brendle, Co- Chair, noted that the group has met twice now and have been working on narrowing down the indicators which came out of an initial brainstorming session.

Mr. Coyman, Co-Chair, stated that the Workgroup has come up with one recurring theme-developing indicators is very hard. The group has looked at what other communities have done and have also received a presentation about indicators from Mr. Knaap and Jason Sartori, National Center for Smart Growth. It was realized that there are basic difficulties with most indicators but some are easy. It is important to establish a connection with what a jurisdiction actually has control over and thus being able to obtain the information.

Mr. Coyman explained the parameters from the indicators bill from which the Workgroup must use to make recommendations to the Task Force. They are:

- Housing choices, including affordability;
- Impact of growth on the environment, including land, air and water;
- Fiscal cost of growth;
- Jobs/housing balance;
- Impact of transportation on growth;
- Impact of growth on business, including job creation, fiscal impact, agribusiness, tourism, and forestry; and
- Impact of growth on cultural and historical resources.

Mr. Coyman stated that the Workgroup will have recommendations for the full Task Force at its July meeting. He noted that this process will be ongoing as indicators do take time to develop.

Mr. Power stated that some things are worth measuring even for those which there is not a lot of control.

Mr. Knaap noted that the charge uses the wording “impact of growth on...”. He stated that this will be hard capture.

Ms. Schmidt-Perkins stated that you can look at agriculture to development and definitely see the impacts of growth.

Mr. Coyman noted that deciding on the type of indicator is challenging. It is not impossible to accomplish but it will take time.

Mr. Laria requested that the Workgroup forward its recommendations in advance well before the next meeting so that the members have ample time to consider.

Department of Housing and Community Development Update

Mr. Kurt Sommer informed the members that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) had convened a Revitalization Committee to look at programs, gaps and

incentives. He distributed a paper copy of a PowerPoint presentation which summarized Maryland's Revitalization Incentives.

He noted that development is underway to create a survey to solicit feedback from key program users about State programs. The next meeting of the Revitalization Committee is on June 15th at PNC Bank.

Mr. Sommer briefly discussed salient legislation from the 2009 General Assembly.

Maryland Department of the Environment Update

Ms. Kenney briefed the members about five recommendations charged to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) from the Task Force's December 2008 Report.

The first recommendation, Phase II of the Nutrient Trading Policy, which was presented by John Rhoderick, Maryland Department of Agriculture has not been adopted to date.

The recommendation to eliminate the septic system disparity was addressed during the 2009 General Assembly.

The ground water allocation recommendation is being addressed through a workgroup which is exploring this topic in the Piedmont region. Some ideas are to allow credit for developed areas that are not using all recharge areas, change in the density requirement for PFAs or credit for stormwater and spray irrigation.

The recommendation for water reuse standards is being addressed by a new policy on water recharge. It is anticipated that regulations will be completed for review by late summer. Ms. Kenney also discussed for a second phase consideration- purple pipes. Purple pipe technology use reclaimed water for reuse for specific uses, but is not potable.

The final recommendation tasked to MDE was to review the Climate Action Plan. Mr. Tad Aburn, MDE, gave a presentation at the Task Force's April meeting. Ms. Kenney distributed the applicable transportation/land use recommendations from the Climate Action Plan report for the Task Force to review. Mr. Laria asked how the recommendations would be implemented. Mr. Halligan responded that each recommendation has a workgroup formed and are working on implementation. He noted that he would be happy to keep the Task Force informed of the Climate Action Plan workgroup's progress.

Maryland Department of Transportation Update

Mr. Halligan went over the eight recommendations tasked to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). A detailed matrix of MDOT's status on these recommendations is available on the Task Force's website: http://www.mdp.state.md.us/future_growth.html.

Maryland Department of Planning Update

Mr. Power explained the Department's recommendation responsibilities which are explained in a memorandum to the Task Force available at: http://www.mdp.state.md.us/future_growth.html . He explained the initiatives underway which include draft proposals to offer assistance early in the comprehensive plan development process, providing technical and/or financial assistance to local government for development and implementation of the comprehensive plan, updating the 2004 infrastructure survey and studying urban vertical schools.

Priority Funding Areas/School Workgroup Update

Mr. Knaap, Co-Chair, explained that the workgroup considered the many ways in which to accomplish its work. He explained that this group had convened during the first phase of the Task Force. During that time they assessed the performance of other states and realized that not a lot of information was available. He noted that federal data only covers 1990-2000.

Mr. Laria informed the Task Force that the group is looking broadly. They have a solid work plan. The next meeting is scheduled for June 10th.

Mr. Berlage, Co-Chair, heading up the Schools effort of the workgroup explained that they are charged with examining a 6 year CIP for schools, vertical schools and the state school approval process as it is related to the PFA process.

Mr. Power asked why there are not more vertical schools. Mr. Berlage explained that there are many factors which include cost, ADA accessibility and fire safety concerns.

Conflicts/Inefficiencies Workgroup Update

Mr. Hertsch, Chair, explained that the workgroup is in the process of developing a survey to solicit feedback from the planning, development and environmental communities. He noted that MDP is assisting with streamlining the survey. The survey in its current form is being analyzed by outside groups in an effort to tighten the questions to enable the best feedback. Mr. Power noted that MDP has asked the Schaefer Center and Zarca to review. Mr. Hertsch asked the Task Force members that once the survey is finalized to follow-up with those that may have received the survey.

Land Preservation/TDR Workgroup Update

Ms. Schmidt-Perkins, Co-Chair, explained the status memo (available at: http://www.mdp.state.md.us/future_growth.html). She explained that the work plan/status memo will serve as the work plan for completion of the interim report addressing TDR's due July 1st.

Education Workgroup Update

Ms. Green, Chair, explained the status memo (available at: http://www.mdp.state.md.us/future_growth.html). She explained that the 2009 General Assembly passed legislation requiring training for planning commission and board of appeals members. The workgroup is working on completing a template for training for the full Task Force to consider at its July meeting.

Mr. Laria asked Ms. Green for a sense of the state of educational materials. Ms. Green stated that a lot exists but packaging and outreach are some of the larger obstacles. She explained that, for example, planning commissioners have a lot of information available but it is not in a central location. The other requirement of this legislation is for MDP to provide online training for planning commissioners and board of appeals members which would provide a centralized location.

Ms. Green also noted that she had been in contact with Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and received all of the curriculums for K-12 to see where, if anything, about Smart Growth existed. Ms. Schmidt-Perkins asked about the prioritization of work for the workgroup. She felt it was good to review the K-12 educational offerings but, stressed the need to look at other groups such as elected officials and citizen organizations etc.

Mr. Carey felt that the planning commissioners and board of appeals members needed the training the most.

Mr. Laria offered to Ms. Green to have a brainstorming session with the full Task Force at some time in the future to assist the workgroup.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Laria noted that the next meeting is scheduled for July 6th from 1-4:00 pm at MDP's offices in the Olmsted Conference Room.

Mr. Laria asked that the Education and Indicators Workgroups get its work to the full Task Force well in advance of the July meeting so that the Task Force may review the material and be prepared to provide feedback.

Mr. Laria also reminded the Land Preservation/TDR Workgroup that its interim report on TDR's is due for the July meeting.

Mr. Laria asked MDOT if they could give the Task Force a TOD presentation of what the Department is accomplishing around the State for possibly the July or August meeting.

Public Comments

None

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.
